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JULY

CAT-MAN

WILLIS AUCTIONEER





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BACK THE ATTACK! BUY MORE WAR BONDS AND STAMPS!

THE CAT MAN

and

THE KITTEN

BY
CHAS. M.
QUINLAN



THE BLIND GODDESS OF JUSTICE HAS THE LAST LAUGH WHEN THE CATMAN AND THE KITTEN STEP IN AND PROVE TO THE NOTORIOUS TONY MORONI THAT MONEY CAN'T BLIND ALL WHO SERVE AS---

The
EYES OF JUSTICE!

HERE WE'ARE KATIE THIS IS THE THRESHOLD OF ALL THAT CIVILIZATION STANDS FOR!-- COME,-- LET'S GO IN!

GEE!



USED TO COME HERE OFTEN THE LEADS FOR MANY OF MY MOST EXCITING CASES CAME FROM HERE.





HELLO MIKE! ANY IMPORTANT CASES BEING TRIED TODAY?

WHAT? HUM-- OH-- HEY?



WELL I'LL BE!-- IF IT ISN'T DAVY MERRYWETHER-- OH--HO!-- NO WONDER I DIDN'T SEE YE AROUND-- YE'RE IN THE ARMY!



THAT'S RIGHT MIKE--- EVER SINCE PEARL HARBOR!-- NOW HOW ABOUT THAT CASE?

HM-- LET ME SEE-- OH YES--



THERE'S ONE IN HERE THAT MIGHT INTEREST YE A BIT!-- IT'S THE LOOEY MORONI CASE!

MORONI? NEVER HEARD OF HIM! WHAT'S HE CHARGED WITH?

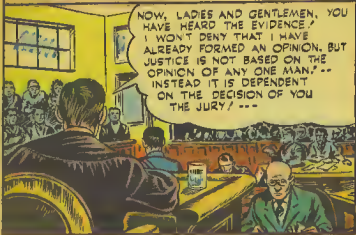


MURDER! COLD BLOODED DELIBERATE MURDER!

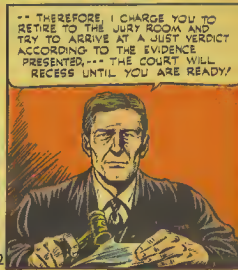


THANKS A LOT MIKE! SEE YOU LATER-- C'MON KATIE!

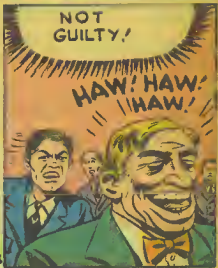
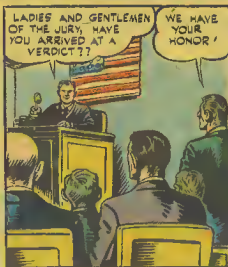
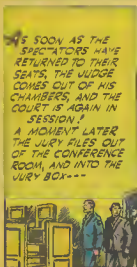
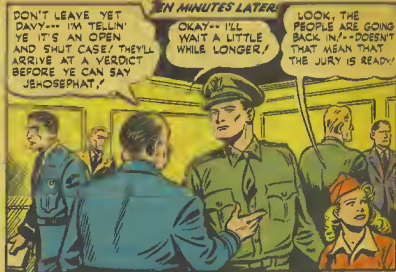
As the CATMAN and the KITTEN ENTER THE HUSHED COURTROOM-- THE JUDGE IS CHARGING THE JURY!



NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, YOU HAVE HEARD THE EVIDENCE! I WON'T DENY THAT I HAVE ALREADY FORMED AN OPINION, BUT JUSTICE IS NOT BASED ON THE OPINION OF ANY ONE MAN!-- INSTEAD IT IS DEPENDENT ON THE DECISION OF YOU THE JURY! ---



-- THEREFORE, I CHARGE YOU TO RETIRE TO THE JURY ROOM AND TRY TO ARRIVE AT A JUST VERDICT ACCORDING TO THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED,--- THE COURT WILL RECESS UNTIL YOU ARE READY!





ORDER! ORDER IN THE COURT! ANOTHER OUTBURST LIKE THAT MORONI, AND I'LL HOLD YOU IN CONTEMPT!

GO AHEAD, JUDGE.--SEE IF I CARE! DIS IS TOO GOOD!--HAH HAH HAW!

VERY WELL MORONI! THAT LAUGH WILL COST YOU ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS! PAY THE CLERK, AND I'LL DOUBLE THE FINE ON ANY SUCCEEDING OUTBURSTS!



SEETHING WITH RAGE, THE JUDGE THEN VENTS HIS INDIGNATION UPON THE SQUIRMING JURY!

NEVER IN MY MANY YEARS ON THE BENCH HAVE I ENCOUNTERED A MORE FLAGRANT MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE!



YOU ARE FREE TO GO MORONI, BUT MARK MY WORDS--YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES! JUSTICE WILL NOT BE CHEATED BY YOU OR ANY OTHER--GET OUT OF HERE!

OKAY JUDGE, G'BYE AND TANKS FOR THE BAD APPLES!

AS MORONI, LEERING SARCASTICALLY, DEPARTS FROM THE COURTROOM, THE CHITMAN FOLLOWS---

COME ON KATIE, I WANT A WORD WITH THAT OVERSTUFFED HOODLUM!



HEY MORONI!

HUH? WHO'S THAT?



WHAT D'YOU WANT? DE ARMY WON'T TAKE ME! I GOT A RECORD!



THE ARMY WOULDN'T HAVE YOU-- YOUR KIND ARE A DIME A DOZEN!-- YOU BEAT THE LAW AGAIN, BUT AS THE JUDGE SAID, JUSTICE WILL NOT BE CHEATED!

YOU'RE A SMART GUY MORONI,--AND SMART GUYS KNOW THAT JUSTICE IS BLIND, BUT DON'T LET IT FOOL YOU, JUSTICE HAS MANY EYES WORKING FOR HER!



SOMETIMES THEY ARE MADE BLIND BY GREED, BUT JUSTICE STILL HAS OTHER EYES, THE EYES OF THE CRIME FIGHTERS!--THOSE MYSTERIOUS BEINGS WHO FIGHT CRIME, NOT FOR GOLD, BUT BECAUSE THEY HATE CRIME AND CRIMINALS!



THEIR EYES ARE STRONG, YES, EVEN STRONG ENOUGH TO SEE IN THE DARK!--THEY WILL SEEK YOU OUT MORONI!--YOU ARE A MARKED MAN!



HAW-HAW-HAW, YOU SOUND LIKE A PRESS AGENT FOR THE CATMAN!--OR MAYBE YOU BEEN READING TOO MANY COMIC BOOKS LATELY!

HAVE IT YOUR OWN WAY MORONI--BUT REMEMBER WHAT I SAID---YOU'RE A MARKED MAN!



CHEE! DE WAY DAT GUY LOOKED AT YA BOSS--IT GIVES ME DE CREEPS! HEY--MAYBE HE'S DE CATMAN HIMSELF!

YEH, AND MAYBE HE'S THE KING OF ENGLAND TOO---FORGET IT! FROM NOW ON I GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO!



ONE HOUR LATER--AT HIS HANGOUT, MORONI GETS DOWN TO HIS WORK!

THE ELITE TRUCKING CO. HAS BEEN GETTING OUT OF HAND WHILE I WAS AWAY, HOP DOWN THERE AND STRAIGHTEN THEM OUT!



OKAY BOSS---CMON YOUSE GUYS LET'S GO!

WHEN YOU FINISH WITH THEM, GO OVER TO THE ACME LAUNDRY, THEY NEED A TREATMENT TOO!



BUT, AT THE DOOR TO MORONI'S APARTMENT THE KEEN EARS OF THE CATMAN LISTEN INTENTLY

THE ELITE TRUCKING CO. AND THE ACME LAUNDRY--- LET'S GO KITTEN!

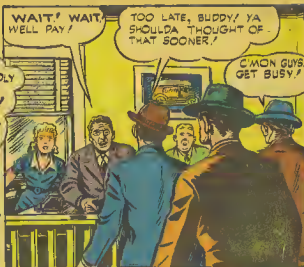


TEN MINUTES LATER--- MORONI'S MOB ARRIVES AT THE TRUCKING COMPANY'S OFFICES, AND BOLDLY ENTERS---



WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?

DON'T GET EXCITED CHUM, JUST A FRIENDLY VISIT! YER BEHIND IN YOUR PAYMENTS! OKAY BOYS--- YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!



WAIT! WAIT! WE'LL PAY!

TOO LATE, BUDDY! YA SHOULDA THOUGHT OF THAT SOONER!

C'MON GUYS, GET BUSY!



SORRY TO SPOIL YOUR FUN BOYS-- BUT IF THERE'S ANY WRECKING TO BE DONE-- I'LL DO IT!

YEOW! IT'S DE CATMAN!



YES BOYS, IN PERSON!

--AND IN CASE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE, THE KITTEN IS HERE TOO!

THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF THE CATMAN AND HIS LITTLE ALLY COMPLETELY DEMORALIZES THE COWARDLY THUGS!



GANGWAY! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!

ME TOO!

ME THREE!



THANKS CATMAN!-- BUT, LOOK-- THEY'RE GETTING AWAY! THEY'LL COME BACK!

DON'T WORRY! WE KNOW WHERE THEY'RE GOING, AND WE'LL BE THERE TO MEET THEM! COME ON KITTEN!

WOW! WHAT A MAN!

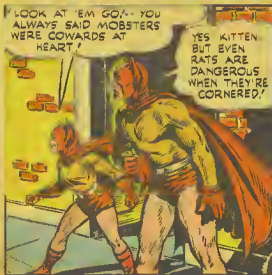


WELL, IF HE IS WE'LL FOOL HIM! WE'RE GOIN' INTO DE ACME BY DE BACK WAY!



A FEW MINUTES LATER

ALL RIGHT YOU GUYS, I'LL GO IN FIRST AND SEE IF IT'S O.K.



IF MY GUESS IS CORRECT, THEY'LL PHONE MORONI AND TELL HIM WHAT HAPPENED! ---AND WE'VE GOT TO BE THERE WHEN HE GETS THAT CALL!



DRIVING AT BREAKNECK SPEED, THE INTREPID DUO QUICKLY ARRIVE AT MORONI'S APARTMENT!

THIS IS IT, KITTEN, AND HERE'S WHERE MORONI GETS A LONG OVERDUE LESSON IN APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY!





IT'S US BOSS! THE CATMAN-- HE ---

OH YEAH, -- O.K. GET BACK HERE QUICK! WE'LL SHOW THAT MEDDLING---

AS MORONI PUTS DOWN THE PHONE THE LIGHTS SUDDENLY GO OUT AND A HOLLOW VOICE BOOMS LOUDLY...



YOU'RE A MARKED MAN, MORONI! JUSTICE WILL NOT BE CHEATED!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS? HEY! WHO SAID THAT?



I SAID IT MORONI! I WARNED YOU-- YOU'RE A MARKED MAN

THE CATMAN NO--NO IT CAN'T BE!



HEY, WHERE ARE YOU? C'MON, SHOW YOURSELF! I DARE YOU!--I'LL BREAK EVERY BONE IN YOUR BODY!



HERE I AM MORONI! HEY!

THE SHARP EXCLAMATION FROM THE CATMAN IS THE RESULT OF MORONI SUDDENLY PULLING A KNIFE FROM HIS COAT!



HE LUNGES TO THE ATTACK--- THE CATMAN NIMBLY LEAPS ASIDE AND DELIVERS A TERRIFIC HAYMAKER THAT SENDS MORONI CRASHING INTO PAIR OF TIGHTLY DRAWN DRAPES!



GOOD LORD!



WHAT HAPPENED UNCLE DAVID? WHAT WAS THAT CRASH?

THAT, KATIE, WAS TONI MORONI KEEPING A DATE WITH JUSTICE! I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A WINDOW BEHIND THESE DRAPES!--WE'LL THE LAW COULDN'T CATCH UP WITH HIM, BUT DESTINY DID!

Always A THRILLING ADVENTURE with THE CATMAN and THE KITTEN in CATMAN COMICS!

The Deacon

and MICKEY

WAS THE DEACON'S MIND STRONG ENOUGH TO PROVE HIS FAITH IN HIMSELF? FOLLOW THE ADVENTURE OF THE DEACON AND MICKEY AS THEY COME FACE TO FACE WITH RASPUTIN, JR.



HERE'S THAT ADVERTISEMENT I TOLD YOU ABOUT, DEAC. IT'S ON THE THEATRICAL PAGE...

HHMM--
LET ME SEE IT, MICKEY...



I THINK WE OUGHT TO TAKE IN THAT PERFORMANCE, MICKEY--IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I'VE SEEN ONE OF THESE FELLOWS.



SHORTLY BEFORE EIGHT O'CLOCK, THE DEACON AND MICKEY STAND IN FRONT OF A THEATRE....

HE SURE ISN'T THE HANDSOMEST THING IN THE WORLD, DEAC!

NO, BUT FOR HIS ACT HE CERTAINLY MAKES A GOOD APPEARANCE!



DO YOUR PART FOR VICTORY ON THE HOME FRONT!

THANK YOU, FOR THE COMPLIMENT, MY FRIEND! ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY TO SEE MY PERFORMANCE?

WHY--WHY-- IT'S RASPUTIN, JR., MICKY. SURE, WE WERE GOING IN---

GOOD, YOU SHALL BE MY GUEST-- YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY-- AM I NOT RIGHT?

WELL YES--IN A PECULIAR SORT OF WAY



SOME TIME LATER THE DEACON AND MICKY ARE OCCUPYING A PRIVATE BOX AT THE THEATRE.

HE SEEMS TO BE A PRETTY SWELL FELLOW DEAC...



A HYPNOTIZED PERSON CANNOT BE MADE TO DO ANYTHING HE WOULD NOT DO IN EVERYDAY LIFE... BUT IF A PERSON HAS EVIL OR CRIMINAL CHARACTERISTICS, THIS CAN BE BROUGHT OUT BY HYPNOSIS! WATCH MY DEMONSTRATION CLOSELY.



TO PROVE TO YOU THAT NOTHING HAS BEEN REHEARSED I HAVE ASKED THE COOPERATION OF MISS RITA JORDAN, DAUGHTER OF THE MAYOR OF CENTER CITY... I WILL NOW PUT HER INTO A DEEP HYPNOTIC TRANCE!



SEVERAL MINUTES LATER UNDER THE SKILLFUL MANIPULATIONS OF THE MASTER HYPNOTIST, RITA FALLS INTO A TRANCE....

OBSERVE THAT I HOLD TWO DAGGERS... ONE IS OF CARD-BOARD, BUT THE OTHER IS A REAL SHARP STEEL BLADE! DOES ANY PARTICULARLY GOOD FRIEND OF MISS JORDAN WISH TO STEP UP HERE?



SAY, DEAC, THIS OUGHT TO BE GOOD!

WE SHALL SEE MICKY-- WE SHALL SEE...



RUTH WILLIAMS, A FRIEND OF RITA'S, VOLUNTEERS FOR THE BIZAAKE EXPERIMENT---

I WANT YOU TO FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY... I WANT YOU TO TAKE THIS KNIFE, AND PLUNGE IT INTO THE BACK OF MISS WILLIAMS, A FRIEND OF YOURS!



ONCE MORE RITA ADVANCES ON HER FRIEND...

PLUNGE IT DEEP IN HER BACK!



COMPLETELY UNDER THE HYPNOTIC POWER OF RASPUTIN, RITA COMPLETELY OBEYS HIS INSTRUCTIONS

VERY WELL DONE!

OH!



--AND NOW I WANT YOU TO DO THE SAME THING ALL OVER AGAIN, BUT WITH THIS KNIFE!



--BUT MURDER IS NOT IN THE HEART OF THIS GENTLE GIRL AS SHE GOES SILENTLY ON THE STAGE!

I-I-I CAN'T DO IT!

THERE-THERE-- EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT



GOSH, DEAC, DO YOU THINK SHE'LL REALLY DO IT ??



AS YOU SEE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IF MISS WILLIAMS HAD THE INSTINCT TO KILL WITHIN HER, SHE WOULD HAVE FOLLOWED MY INSTRUCTIONS AND POSSIBLY HAVE MURDERED HER BEST FRIEND!



AFTER THE SHOW AN EX-HUBERANT MICKEY GOES HOME WITH A THOUGHTFUL DEACON

GEE--HE'S SWELL DEAC, AIN'T HE? SAY--WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, DEAC YOU LOOK SERIOUS

DON'T KNOW, MICKEY BOY-- I WAS JUST THINKING--



AFTER THE PERFORMANCE, RASPUTIN HAS A MEETING WITH CENTER CITY'S MOST NOTORIOUS CHARACTERS.

COME ON, RASPUTIN! WE SAW YOUR ACT AND WE THOUGHT YOU WERE TERRIFIC!



FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER OUR HYPNOTIST FRIEND IS ENGAGED IN DEEP CONVERSATION WITH YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY SURE IT WILL WORK, RASPUTIN?

DO YOU DOUBT ME?

IT WORKED IN EVERY TOWN I PLAYED IN!



YOU SAW HIM THEN? DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE HIS CONFIDENCE?

YES, I AM QUITE SURE I HAVE. I RECOGNIZED HIM IMMEDIATELY ON THE STREET. HE AND HIS YOUNG FRIEND SAW ME PERFORM.



AND SO--THE FOLLOWING EVENING THE DEACON AND MICKEY ARE INTERRUPTED IN THEIR CUSTOMARY STROLL UNDER THE QUIET TREES ON PINE STREET.

PSST-PSSTÉ THIS IS FOR YOU!



IT'S FROM RASPUTIN JR., MICKEY, AND HE WANTS ME TO MEET HIM ALONE IN ROOM 1309, IN CENTER CITY HOTEL. I WONDER WHAT HE WANTS OF ME!

ALONE? YOU MEAN YOU AREN'T GOING TO TAKE ME WITH YOU, DEAC?



DESPITE MICKEY'S PLEAS TO ACCOMPANY HIS IDOL, THE DEACON IS VERY INSISTENT UPON GOING TO THE HOTEL--ALONE--

NO, MICKEY BOY, NOT THIS TIME! I'VE GOT SOMETHING ON MY MIND THAT I'VE WANTED TO FIND OUT FOR SOME TIME--AND I HAVE TO DO IT ALONE! WAIT FOR ME AT THE CHURCH!



THE DEACON PRESENTS HIMSELF AT THE DOOR OF ROOM 1309

WELCOME, MY DEAR DEACON. I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

WHAT IS IT YOU WANT OF ME, RASPUTIN?



I HAVE ASKED YOU HERE BECAUSE I WANT TO ASK A FAVOR OF YOU...IF I MAY--- SO---

IF YOU WILL JUST BEAR WITH ME--AND JUST CONCENTRATE ON WHAT I AM GOING TO TELL YOU... IT WILL BE TO YOUR ADVANTAGE!

WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?



LIKE A SLITHERING SNAKE, THE PURRING WORDS OF THE MASTER HYPNOTIST WORM THEIR WAY INTO THE SUBCONSCIOUS MIND OF THE DEACON

YOU ARE GOING TO LISTEN TO ME. YOU ARE GOING TO OBEY MY EVERY WHIM AND COMMAND...REPEAT THAT, DEACON!



LISTEN, RASPUTIN, WHAT THIS GUY DON'T KNOW ABOUT BANK VAULTS ISN'T WORTH KNOWING. I KNEW HIM WHEN HE WAS A CRIB CRACKER - HE CAN OPEN 'EM NOT ONLY FROM THE OUTSIDE, BUT ONCE WHEN THEY LOCKED HIM IN - HE OPENED IT FROM THE INSIDE!



IN THE SHADOWS OF AN ADJOINING BUILDING, MICKEY WATCHES....

ORDERS OR NO ORDERS. IF THE DEACON ISN'T OUT OF THAT HOTEL IN FIVE MORE MINUTES, OH--HERE COMES RITA JORDAN!



YOUR EVERY WISH IS MY COMMAND

GOOD! YOUR FORMER CRIMINAL RECORD WILL PROVE IT'S WORTH TO ME!!



SOON THE HYPNOTIST'S VOICE IS BORING DEEP INTO THE BRAIN OF RITA JORDAN, BY TELEPHONE--

WHA--WHO--? RASPUTIN, JR.? OH-OH-YES--YES-- I'LL GO THERE AT ONCE!!



YOU WILL GO IMMEDIATELY TO THE CENTER CITY BANK AND BEGIN A CONVERSATION WITH THE WATCH-MAN... HE WON'T SUSPECT YOU-- YOU ARE THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER!

I WILL OBEY--I WILL GO NOW!



A PHONE CALL IS MADE TO LEW MOODY'S SUITE, AND A FEW MINUTES LATER THE GANG LEADER STANDS BEFORE HIS MOST HATED ENEMY - THE DEACON!!

THIS HOLY GUY IS THE SMARTEST RAFFLES WHO EVER CRACKED A CRIB - AND HERE HE IS - AS HELPLESS AS A BABY!!

I HOPE HIS KNOWLEDGE OF BANK VAULT TIME LOCKS IS AS YOU SAY.... THE CENTER CITY BANK ISN'T A TOY - YOU KNOW!



MINUTES LATER, THE SOLITARY FIGURE OF RITA IS WALKING DOWN DESERTED MAIN STREET, IN CENTER CITY...

I MUST OBEY! I MUST OBEY EVERYTHING HE TELLS ME TO DO



A SHORT TIME LATER MICKEY SEES A BLACK SEDAN ROLL UP TO THE HOTEL. THREE MEN ENTER THE CAR

YOU GUYS WAIT AT THE SIDE OF THE BANK, AND COVER US IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG!

RIGHT, LEW!

GOT IT!



GOSH, JUST AS I FIGURED! THE DEACON'S IN TROUBLE!

THEY GIVE THEIR LIVES, YOU LEND YOUR MONEY!

WITH ALL THE SPRING OF HIS YOUTHFUL BODY, MICKEY RUSHES TOWARDS THE BANK---

SO THAT'S THEIR GAG, EH! I BET THEY ARE GOING TO TRY TO MAKE THE DEACON DO A JOB. WE STOPPED THEM ONCE, AND WE CAN STOP THEM AGAIN. THIS IS ONE TIME I CAN'T ASK THE COPS FOR HELP!



THERE IS A SLIGHT PUFF FROM A SILENCER EQUIPPED AUTOMATIC--AND--

I'LL TELL YOU WHY WE'RE HERE YOU OLO GOAT!



HE HORRIFIED MICKEY A WITNESS TO THIS KILLING, WATCHES THE TRIO INCLUDING HIS BELOVED DEACON ENTER THE BANK

GOSH! THE DEAC MUST BE HYPNOTIZED SAME AS RITA-- THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO UN TANGLE THIS MESS



THE HYPNOTIZED RITA IS TALKING TO THE SURPRISE NIGHT WATCHMAN...

RITA JORDAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE AT THIS TIME OF THE MORNING? WHAT'S WRONG, CHILD?

NOTHING, MR. REARDON--OH-- J--JUST--



THE THREE MEN COME TO A HALT BEFORE THE HUGE BANK VAULT

THERE YOU ARE DEACON... AS HUGE AS THIS VAULT IS IT CAN BE OPENED BY SOMEONE LIKE YOU YOU KNOW HOW TO JIGGLE THE TIME LOCK. NOW GET STARTED!!

YEAH, AND QUICK!!



STRANGE WAVE OF EMOTION SWEEPS OVER THE DEACON'S MIND AS HE HEARS THE ORDER GIVEN OVER AND OVER AGAIN BY THE HYPNOTIST.

WHAT'S HE STALLING FOR?

HE'S NOT STALLING. THERE'S A TREMENDOUS BATTLE RAGING BETWEEN HIS CONSCIOUS AND SUBCONSCIOUS MIND



MEANWHILE OUTSIDE -IN THE LOBBY OF THE BANK

POOR MR. REARDON! HE WAS SHOT WITHOUT A CHANCE BY THAT DIRTY RAT, MOODY...AT LEAST I HAVE A GUN, SO THAT MAKES US EQUAL.



SLOWLY BUT SURELY THE TRIUMPH OF THE DEACON'S SUBCONSCIOUS MIND TAKES ITS EFFECT

IT WON'T WORK MOODY-- THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO GET RID OF HIM BEFORE HE SQUEALS!



BUT AT THAT MOMENT THE BOUNDING FIGURE OF A BRAVE BOY ENTERS THE ROOM--

NO, YOU DON'T!

MICKEY!

ARGGH!



THE BULLET FINDS ITS MARK IN THE HEART OF RASPUTIN.

RITA AND THE DEACON RECOVER FROM THEIR TRANCE--

THE SPELL IS BROKEN FOREVER--

THE FOLLOWING DAY IN THE RECTORY OF THE OLD MARSHLANDS CHURCH

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE IS OVER, BUT I HAD TO PROVE IT TO MYSELF, MICKEY, NOW THAT I'M ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW PATH, I INTEND TO STAY THAT WAY--I DON'T KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOU!



AW, SKIP IT, DEACON, ONLY THE NEXT TIME YOU GO ANYWHERE, I'D BETTER TAG ALONG-- SOMEBODY'S GOT TO TAKE CARE OF YOU!

AIR THRILLS BY THE DOZENS! UNUSUAL FAST-PACED TALES! ALL THIS, AND MANY STARTLING FEATURES in

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THERE'S NO RATION ON EXCITEMENT IN THE CURRENT ISSUE OF

CAT-MAN

COMICS

starring

THE CATMAN and the KITTEN



THEY GIVE THEIR LIVES, YOU LEND YOUR MONEY!

The

ART BY
DON
TRICO

MEET THE RECKONER,
NEMESIS OF THE ROBBER
BARONS OF GANGDOM!
ALL WHO INDULGE IN
EVIL MUST EVENTUALLY
FACE THE GLITTERING
SCALES OF JUSTICE OF
THIS ONE MAN CRU-
SADE AGAINST CRIME!
FOLLOW HIM IN HIS
FIRST AMAZING
ADVENTURE WITH...

"THE STAMPS
THAT SPILLED
BLOOD!"

OUR STORY OPENS AS MATTY MARTIN
CRUISES IN HIS CAB IN SEARCH OF A
FARE--AND ADVENTURE!

TAXI!

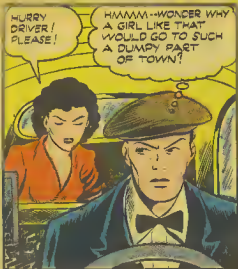
AH! A FARE!
AND A PRETTY
ONE TOO!

COMING,
LADY!

217 GROVE ---
AND HURRY
PLEASE!

RIGHT
LADY!

20
10



-- AS THE RECKONER!



SOMETHINGS GOING ON UP THERE--AND I MEAN TO FIND OUT WHAT!



INSIDE THE ROOM---

SHE'LL BE HERE, SAUNDERS! MY DAUGHTER WON'T LET ME DOWN!

IF SHE DOESN'T COME, I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU!



OH--WHY DID THE MISFORTUNE OF THOSE MISERABLE STAMPS HAVE TO COME TO ME? WHY DID I BUY THEM! I KNEW THEY WERE BATHED IN BLOOD!

ALL I KNOW IS THAT THEY'RE WORTH DOUGH!



STAMPS? BLOOD MONEY? HAAAA! I'LL DROP IN ON THIS LITTLE POW-WOW!



GOOD EVENING GENTLEMEN! I'D LIKE A WORD WITH YOU!



THE RECKONER!



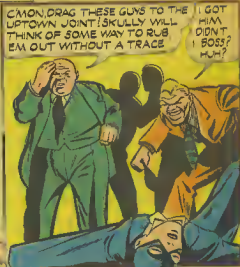
RECKONER! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME! THESE MEN ARE GANGSTERS--- THEY'RE GOING TO STEAL---

YOU OLD GOAT! HERE'S WHERE YOU GET YOURS!



I HARDLY THINK SO BUDDY!





BACK THE ATTACK! BUY MORE WAR BONDS AND STAMPS!

I OUGHTA KNOCK YOU OFF
RIGHT NOW--BUT SKULLY
WILL THINK OF A BETTER
WAY TO DO IT

AW BUTT ON YOUR
LIP YOU CHEAP
HOODLUM



--AND THAT'S THE STORY.
THE RECKONER MUFFED
THE DEAL/BUT HOW'RE WE
GONNA GET RID OF HIM
WITHOUT A TRACE?

YEAH, WE
CAN'T LET HIS
BODY BE FOUND
THAT WOULD BE
BAD--FOR US!



A HALF HOUR GOES BY AND THE RECKONER
HAS LOOSENEED HIS BONDS--

TAKE IT EASY, FELLA!
WE'LL BE OUT OF
THIS VERY SOON!

MY DAUGHTER!
WHAT HAVE THEY
DONE TO HER?



I'M AFRAID
SHE'S---
DEAD--

DEAD!
GOOD HEAVENS!
HAVE MERCY ON ME
FOR EVER WANTING
THOSE ACCURSED
STAMPS!



SHHH!
HERE THEY
COME!

STAMPS! WHAT
IS THIS ALL
ABOUT ANY-
WAY?



SO YOU'RE THE
RECKONER EH?

YES, AND I'M GOING
TO RECKON WITH
YOU, SKULLY!

OH YEAH, LEMME
SHOW YOU SOMETHING
RECKONER---



I AIN'T NO SLOUCH WHEN IT
COMES TO KNOCKIN' GUYS OFF
SEE THOSE TROUGHS--? THEY
HOLD CEMENT/GET IT

WHAT A PLEASANT
FELLOW YOU ARE!



PLEASANT OR NOT--
HERE'S WHERE YOU'RE
GOING TO GET YOURS!

NO! DON'T!
NO!



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YEEOW!



BREAKING FREE OF HIS LOOSENED BONDS THE RECKONER SWINGS INTO ACTION---



ATTABOY, RECKONER GIVE IT TO 'EM, KIDDO!

BOP!

CRACK!



LET 'EM HAVE IT, RECKONER! I'M RIGHT BEHIND YA!

YOU SAVED MY LIFE SON! WHAT'S YOUR NAME



AW--- JUST CALL ME ROCKY. DAT'S DE ONLY NAME I EVER HAD

AFTER THE THUGS HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE POLICE THE RECKONER, ROCKY, AND MR. STURGES ARE IN THE OLDER MAN'S RESIDENCE.

YES--THE POSTAGE STAMPS WERE RARE SPECIMENS...WORTH OVER A HALF MILLION MY DAUGHTER AND I WERE KIDNAPPED! I HAD TO SEND HER BACK TO THE HOUSE TO PICK UP THE STAMPS OR THEY WOULD HAVE KILLED US BOTH---

THEY SENT A GUNMAN BACK HERE WITH HER-- THE STAMPS WERE IN THE SAFE 'HE PROBABLY TRIED TO PULL A DOUBLE CROSS AND SHOT HER! NOW MY DAUGHTER IS DEAD.. MY STAMPS ARE GONE AND---

WAIT! SHE GAVE ME A LOCK OF HER HAIR! WHY---

STAY AT THIS PHONE! YOU'LL HEAR FROM US SOON! CAMON, ROCKY!

RIGHT BEHIND YA RECKONER!



THEY GIVE THEIR LIVES, YOU LEND YOUR MONEY!

FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER, BACK AT THE CAB--

HER HAIR! THAT'S WHAT SHE WAS TRYING TO TELL ME!

GEE WHIZ! SHE SURE WAS A PRETTY GOIL!

SO, THIS IS THE CAUSE OF SO MUCH BLOOD-SHED! THREE LITTLE PIECES OF FADED PAPER!

YEAH! BUT IT SPELLS BUCKS TO DEM BEAT CHARACTERS WE TOOK CARE OF!

NEXT DAY--

GEE, MARTY, IT SURE IS SWELL TO KNOW I GOT SOMEBODY TO BE WITH! TANKS FER TAKIN' ME IN! I'LL BE A BIG HELP TO YA!

OKAY, ROCKY! FROM NOW ON WE SHARE AND SHARE ALIKE!

DON RICO--

AND SO THE FIRST OF US SOLVED OUR TWO ADVENTUROUS PALS ARE READY FOR THEIR NEXT FOLLOW THEM IN THE NEXT STARTLING ISSUE OF CATMAN COMICS!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOURSELF IN A COMIC BOOK?

HERES

Great News!

FOR EVERY READER OF CATMAN COMICS

Write a TRUE PERSONAL ADVENTURE that happened to YOU!

WIN THESE PRIZES:

1ST PRIZE

\$25.00

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UNITED STATES WAR BOND

2ND PRIZE

\$10.00

IN WAR STAMPS and

100 PRIZES

OF \$5.00 IN WAR EACH STAMPS

Here are Rules of this Unusual Contest:

1. WRITE YOUR TRUE ADVENTURE LEGIBLY ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER, STATING THE DATE, THE PLACE, AND THE REAL NAMES OF THE PERSONS INVOLVED.
2. ENCLDSE A RECENT SNAPSHOT OF YOURSELF (NOT RETURNABLE). IF YOUR STORY IS ACCEPTED, YOUR LIKENESS WILL APPEAR IN THE COMIC STRIP MADE FROM YOUR STORY.
3. THE DECISION OF THE EDITORS OF CONTINENTAL MAGAZINES WILL BE FINAL.

THIS CONTEST IS OPEN TO EVERY READER OF CATMAN COMICS OF ANY AGE!

Send your Story in TODAY!

Address
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Personal Adventure Dept.
220 WEST 42ND ST.
NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.

DO YOUR PART FOR VICTORY ON THE HOME FRONT!

CATMAN COMICS presents

The HOOD

and The SONS of The RISING SUN

TOJO'S BUTCHERS TRY
TO MAKE A BLITZKREIG
FROM TOKIO TO SAN DIEGO--!
ANOTHER NEPARIOUS PLAN OF
THESE LITTLE BROWN MEN!
HOW CAN THE HOOD COPE
WITH THIS MOST UNUSUAL
SITUATION? READ ON AND
LEARN THE SECRET OF THE
SONS OF THE RISING
SUN



BACK THE ATTACK! BUY MORE WAR BONDS AND STAMPS!

THIS UNUSUAL TALE BEGINS ON SUNSET BLVD
HOLLYWOOD

CRAGG THINKS SEEM
TO BE TOO QUIET LATELY
AROUND HERE—
YOU HAVEN'T SPOKEN
ONE WORD SINCE WE
LEFT THE RESTAURANT

I WAS JUST
"THINKING RAE"
I HAVE A
HUNCH!



THE SLINKING FIGURES LEAP UPON THE UN-
SUSPECTING SOLDIER AND

WHAT IS IT
CRAGG

I HAVE A HUNCH THAT THOSE LITTLE BROWN
TERMITES ARE UP TO SOME KIND OF A STUNT
TO TERRORIZE THE WEST COAST LIKE THEY
TRIED TO WITH
THOSE KILLER
DOGS! REMEMBER?



AND INDEED
MAYOR WOOD
HUNCH IS
RIGHT! FOR
AT THAT
VERY MO-
MENT AT A
JAP DETEN-
TION CAMP
IN SOUTHERN
IDAHO

NOW!

BANZAI!



VOHNN!



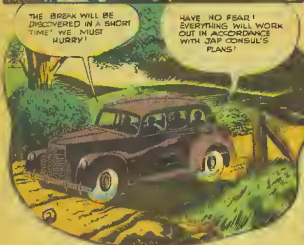
YOU HAVE PLAN
ALL PREPARED?

YES! WE DRIVE TO SILVER
BAR RANCH, WHERE OTHER
COMRADE AWAITS US!



THE BREAK WILL BE
DISCOVERED IN A SHORT
TIME! WE MUST
HURRY!

HAVE NO FEAR!
EVERYTHING WILL WORK
OUT IN ACCORDANCE
WITH JAP CONSUL'S
PLANS!



AND SO A VERY SHORT TIME LATER THE MYSTERIOUS
JAPS APPROACH THE COOKHOUSE OF SILVER BAR RANCH

WE ARE ON TIME
TO THE MINUTE!

IT IS GOOD! LET
US AWAKEN NEJO!





SHORTLY AFTERWARDS A STRANGE RE-
UNION TAKES PLACE IN ONE OF THE MOST
DEMOCRATIC OF ALL AMERICAN INSTITU-
TIONS... THE WESTERN COOK HOUSE...

COMMAND, WE
ARE READY TO
SERVE THE MI-
KADO!

IT IS OUR
PRIVILEGE
TO DIE FOR
NIPPON

BANZAI!



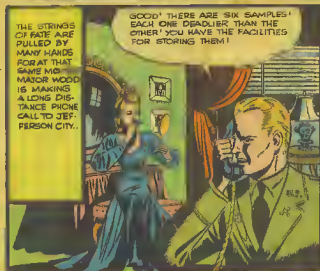
A GOOD MEAL OF AMERICAN FOOD AND
THE SIX LITTLE BROWN MEN ARE READY
TO START ON THE BIGGEST ADVENTURE
OF THEIR LIVES...

THESE CURSED
AMERICAN CLOTHES
ARE MOST REPU-
SIVE! I LOATHE
THEM!

IT IS TRUE
BAKU! BUT ONE
MUST DEFILE
ONE'S SELF FOR
TRUE GLORY!



I WILL SUPPLY YOU WITH HORSES, AND
YOU WILL MAKE THE JOURNEY TO JEFFER-
SON CITY WHERE A PLANE WILL BE WAIT-
ING TO PICK YOU UP AFTER ACCOMPLISHING
YOUR MISSION!



GOOD! THERE ARE SIX SAMPLES!
EACH ONE DEADLIER THAN THE
OTHER! YOU HAVE THE FACILITIES
FOR STORING THEM!

AT THE OTHER END OF THE WIRE, IS WILFRED CARSON,
INVENTOR OF THE MOST DEADLY OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES,
CARLYTE...

THE ONLY FACILITIES FOR STORING THE SAMPLES
ARE AT THE EXPRESS OFFICE, HERE IN JEFFERSON
CITY! I WILL LOCK THEM IN THE SAFE! IT IS OLD
FASHIONED, BUT I DON'T THINK ANYONE WOULD
DARE SO NEAR IT, IF THEY KNEW WHAT WAS THERE
I HOPE MY EXPERIMENT WILL PROVE A SUCCESS.

I'LL FLY TO SEATTLE WITH THEM SOME-
TIME TOMORROW
AFTERNOON!



THEY GIVE THEIR LIVES, YOU LEND YOUR MONEY!

FOR MANY MONTHS WILFRED CARSON HAS BEEN LIVING IN DANGEROUS ISOLATION, DEVELOPING CARUTE, SUPER EXPLOSIVE ONE MILLION TIMES MORE POWERFUL THAN TNT...

SIX SLABS OF CARUTE ARE CAREFULLY PLACED IN THE OLD FASHIONED SAFE IN THE EXPRESS OFFICE

THERE'S ENOUGH POWER IN THIS SAFE TO BLOW ONE OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS APART!

I AIN'T NERVOUS CARSON, BUT NUT WHAT'S THAT NOISE?



ORDINARILY WE WOULD NOT HESITATE A FRACTION OF A SECOND TO KILL YOU STUPID SWINE, BUT WE REALIZE GUN SHOT WOULD AWAKEN ENTIRE TOWN!

IT WILL BE BETTER THAT YOU BE HUMILIATED BY BEING BOUND AND GAGGED!

I HAVE NEVER HEARD SUCH QUEER TALK FROM CON FUNCHERS!



MEANWHILE CARSON AND THE TATION MASTER ARE BOUND AND GAGGED.

(GLUB) (GLUB) I HAVE FIGURED IT OUT CARSON! THEM THERE HOMERES ARE JAPS!

GOOD HEAVENS! THEN WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE, QUICKLY, GLUB!

THE TELEPHONE RINGS NOISILY IN MAJOR WOODS HOTEL SUITE AT FOUR A.M.

YOU... WHAT? WHAT? THIS IS UTTERLY FANTASTIC! WHAT ELSE HAPPENED? YES... YES... ALRIGHT, I'LL GET STARTED RIGHT AWAY!



ALMOST OUT OF NOWHERE, SIX MASKED MEN APPEAR AT THE DOORWAY OF THE HARRIS OFFICE

PLEASE NOT TO CLOSE THE SAFE, OR IT WILL BE MY UNFORTUNATE DUTY TO DISPOSE OF YOU!

LOOK OUT YOU FOOLS! YOU'LL BLOW US ALL SKY HIGH!



REMOVING THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT OWNED CARUTE, THE MASKED RIDERS MAKE OFF INTO THE NIGHT...

LET US HURRY! THE PLANE IS DUE NOW!



WINGING IT'S WAY TOWARDS SAN DIEGO WITH IT'S TEEMING WAR ACTIVITY IS A SMALL PRIVATELY OWNED PASSENGER PLANE

OUR PLAN IS WORKING TO THE LETTER! NEDU HAD TO BRIBE MANY PEOPLE IN ORDER TO GET THIS PLANE FOR US!

WE WILL BE IN SAN DIEGO IN THREE HOURS!



WE WILL LAND IN FIELD
ADJOINING ABANDONED
JAPANESE FARMHOUSE
AND PREPARE FOR OUR
NOBLE SACRIFICE

I CAN HARDLY WAIT
TO DIE IN SUCH AN
HONORABLE WAY
FOR THE EMPEROR!



MEANWHILE AN EXCITED MAJOR WOOD HAS RECEIVED THE FIRST CLUE OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE CARLYLE...

WHAT! YOU TELL ME THE
PLANE IS SPOTTED OVER
SPENCERVILLE?



I AM GOING TO WADE
INTO THIS THING, AS
THE HOOD!



MAJOR WOOD HAS ORDERED ALL ARMY POSTS TO ALLOW THE PLANE TO PROCEED THROUGH THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT PROTECTED AREA. HE HAS A PLAN TO CAPTURE THE FORMULA BEFORE IT CAN BE DESTROYED



WE GOT THROUGH
SAFELY EVEN THOUGH
WE HAD LIGHTS FOLLOWING
US FOR A LONG WAY!

IT IS AS I EXPECTED! THEY
DID NOT DARE SHOOT US DOWN
FOR FEAR OF LOSING THEIR
PRECIOUS FORMULA! WE HAVE NO
TIME TO LOSE!



COMMANDERING HIS PRIVATE PLANE,
WOOD ROARS ON WINGS OF VENGEANCE
TO SAN DIEGO

THOSE HIPS WILL STOP AT
NOTHING TO SAVE THEIR OBJECTIVE!
THIS IS THE TOUGHEST
RACE AGAINST TIME I HAVE EVER
HAD IN MY LIFE! IF MY HUNCH
IS RIGHT, THEY WILL LAND IN
A SMALL AREA TOWARDS THE
EAST!



INSIDE OF AN ABANDONED FARMHOUSE
THE FATALISTIC SONS OF THE RISING
SUN PREPARE A RENDEZVOUS WITH
DEATH!!!

WHEN OUR
WORK IS DONE
A STATUE WILL
BE ERECTED TO
OUR HONOR
IN TOKIO!

OF COURSE,
IS NOT OUR
EXPLOIT AS
DANGEROUS
AS THOSE
FOR WHOM
A STATUE IS
ERECTED
NOW!

I AM
READY
TO
GO!

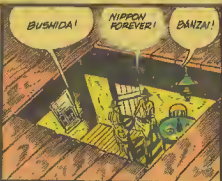


NOW WE WILL HEAD FOR THE CITY
TOGETHER, AND THEN GO OUR SEPARATE
WAYS! EACH HAS HIS OBJECTIVE!
THE EMPEROR'S "YOU" BACK IS
OF SUFFICIENT POWER TO COMPLETELY
ANNIHILATE ANYTHING! YOU
WILL OBSERVE THE CORD ON EACH
CAGE! THAT WAS TO BE USED FOR
EXPERIMENTAL FUSE PRIMER A QUICK
FULL OF THIS STRING AND IT'S ALL
OVER!



DO YOUR PART FOR VICTORY ON THE HOME FRONT!

IN THIS TRADITIONAL SALUTE OF THE SUICIDE ORDER OF THE JAPS. THE FOUR PREPARE TO TAKE THEIR DEPARTURE...



BUT SUDDENLY THEY HEAR THE ROAR OF AN AMERICAN PURSUIT SHIP!

A PLANE! AND OF LOW ALTITUDE!

HAVE WE BEEN DISCOVERED SO SOON?

WE WILL SEE!



FROM THE GREENHOUSE OF HIS SPEEDY CRAFT, THE HOOD SEES THE JAPS PLANE..

M...M... THIS IS IT, ALRIGHT! I AM GOING TO TRY AN ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE STUNT... LAND THIS BABY ON THAT PATCH OF GROUND!



WITH THE SKILL BORN OF YEARS OF EXPERT SKY NAVIGATION THE HOOD SUCCEEDS IN BRINGING THE PLANE SAFELY TO EARTH...

AH HA! AND HERE'S THE WELCOMING COM MITTEE!

WE ARE UNARMED WE FORGOT OUR GUNS!



AND AS THE HOOD GETS OUT OF HIS PLANE HE IS CONFRONTED BY THE JAPS

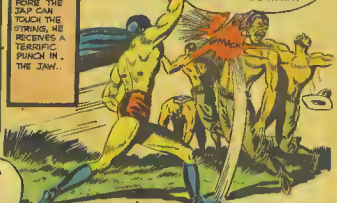
SO HERE YOU ARE MY LITTLE NIP FRIENDS!

YOU SHALL BE THE FIRST TO GO UP WITH YOUR PRECIOUS CARBIDE!



WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT, AND EVEN BEFORE THE JAP CAN TOUCH THE STRING, HE RECEIVES A TERRIFIC PUNCH IN THE JAW..

IS THAT SO? WELL IF I'M GOING YOU'RE COMING WITH ME! THAT STUFF DON'T EXPLODE ON CONTACT AS BASTY AS YOU THINK!



YOU GUYS THINK YOU SMART EN? IT SO HAPPENS THAT THOSE GLASS YOU HAVE ON YOUR BACKS ARE PHONEY'S! THERE'S NO EXPLOSIVES IN THEM. THE REAL CARBIDE IS HIDDEN ELSEWHERE IN JEFFERSON CITY!

YOU LIE!

YES! AND I WILL PULL THE CORD! AND BE THE FIRST TO DIE!



ワッ



HA! HA! THE RISING SONS OF NIPPON! WHAT A LAUGH! YOU GUYS AREN'T SO BRAVE NOW THAT YOU CAN'T DIE FOR YOUR BELOVED EMPIRE! YOU LOOK LIKE A BUNCH OF MONKEYS SCRATCHING THEIR BACKS!

WHY DO WE WAIT? WE ARE FOUR, HE IS BUT ONE!

WE HAVE BEEN DE-TRAYED!



WITH BLIND FOLLY THE FOUR JAPS CHARGE OUR
GALLANT DEFENDER ...



EVEN IF THERE WERE A
CHARGE OF CARLYTE IN
THOSE CASES, IT CAN ONLY
BE EXPLODED ONE WAY!

UGH!!



IN LESS TIME THAN IT TAKES TO TELL
FOUR SONS OF THE RISING SUN ARE
DOWN AND OUT ...

GOOD! HERE COME SOME
AMERICAN STAFF CARS
YOUR WOUNDS WILL BE
TAKEN CARE OF



FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER

SO YOU'RE
GOING TO FLY
TO JEFFERSON
CITY? I'M CER-
TAINLY GLAD
THAT THESE
SLABS WERE
PHONIES!

PHONIES! THEY'RE
NOT PHONIES! IT
SO HAPPENS THAT
THE OUTSIDE SHELL
IS A PHONEY, THE
REAL CASE AND
CORD ARE IN-
SIDE



YOU MEAN THAT
THESE SLABS OF
CARLYTE ARE THE
REAL THING?

ABSOLUTELY! IT
WAS JUST ONE OF
THE MANY PRE-
CAUTIONS THAT
CARSON TOOK TO
PROTECT THIS STUFF
IT WILL NOT EXPLODE
ON CONTACT, THAT
WAS WHY I WAS
ABLE TO BOB
THOSE NIPS
AROUND!



AND SO OFF FOR JEFFERSON
CITY HEADS OUR INTREPID
BENTON OF SABOTAGE TO
RETURN THE PRECIOUS
SLABS OF CARLYTE



SEVERAL DAYS LATER IN A SWANK HOLLYWOOD
CAFE...

HAVE YOU HEARD OF
THE LATEST EXPLOIT
OF THE HOOD AND HOW HE
SAVED SO MANY LIVES?
WHY CAN'T THE ARMY
FIND AND USE A MAN
LIKE
HIM!

I DON'T KNOW RAB!
WHERE HE COMES
FROM AND WHERE
HE GOES NO ONE
EVER SEEMS TO
KNOW!



THE HOOD HAS A SURPRISE IN STORE
FOR YOU IN NEXT MONTH'S ADVENTURE
OF THE HOOD IN THE

NEXT ISSUE of
GATMAN Comics